

# United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-3205

March 16, 2009

Frank M. Torti  
Acting Commissioner  
Food and Drug Administration  
5600 Fishers Lane  
Rockville, MD 20857

Dear Acting Commissioner Torti,

I write today to express my deep concerns about the safety of child and baby personal care products that Americans use each day. A study conducted by the Campaign for Safe Cosmetics reveals startling new data that many widely used products contain carcinogens and other harmful chemicals. Due to a complete and total lack of oversight, the products that we use to care for our children could be putting their health and lives at risk.

As a mother of two young children, I expect the baby and child products my family uses to be safe. I find it to be unacceptable that the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) does not regulate personal care products, as it does food and drugs. As a result, baby soap, lotions and other products are contaminated with deadly chemicals. Even the best intentioned parent cannot protect their child when the danger is unknown or invisible to watchful eyes.

The Campaign for Safe Cosmetics commissioned laboratory tests that revealed that personal care products are commonly contaminated with formaldehyde or 1,4-dioxane, which have been linked to cancer and skin allergies. More than two-thirds of the products tested positive for 1,4-dioxane and more than eighty percent were found to contain formaldehyde - 17 of the products tested positive for both.

There is growing evidence that proves that toxic chemicals lead to increasing rates of disease, even in small doses. Studies have found these risks to be even more pronounced in children under the age of 18-months. It is clear that FDA oversight and regulation of cosmetics is necessary to protect people, especially babies and children, from unnecessary toxic chemicals.

Americans expect and deserve the same level of protection from harmful cosmetics as they do from dangerous food and drugs. The fact that these products, used daily on children and babies throughout the country, are among the least-regulated products on the market is intolerable. I am writing to demand that the FDA protect America's children by requiring that all ingredients are safe for long-term use before they can be used in everyday products.

  
Kirsten E. Gillibrand